



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT  
MARCH 2, 2015**

The Special meeting Questions to Directors of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 6 p.m.

**Present**

Deputy Mayor Robert P. Santangelo, Councilman Thomas J. Serra, Councilwoman Hope P. Kasper, Councilman Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Councilman Carl R. Chisem, Councilman Gerald E. Daley, Councilman James B. Streeto, Councilman Sebastian N. Giuliano, Councilwoman Sandra Russo Driska, Councilwoman Deborah A. Kleckowski, Councilman David Bauer, Sargent-at-arms Police Chief William McKenna, and Council Clerk Marie O Norwood.

**Absent**

Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Councilwoman Mary A. Bartolotta, and Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan

**Also Present**

Public Works Director William Russo, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Acting Director of IT Eldon Bailey, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, City Attorney Brig Smith, Chief of Police William McKenna, Acting Parks and Recreation Acting Director Deb Stanley, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Deputy Fire Chief Steve LaRosa, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Planning, Conservation and Development Director Michiel Wackers, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, City and Town Clerk Linda Bettencourt, Emergency Management Director George Dunn, Russell Library Director Arthur Meyers, Youth Services Coordinator Justin Carbonella, Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and five members of the public.

**1. Mayor calls meeting to order at 6 p.m.**

The Acting Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and leads the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Council Clerk Reads the Call of the Meeting and Mayor declares call a legal call and meeting a legal meeting.

**2. Questions to Directors Opens**

The Acting Chair opens questions to directors at 6:03 p.m. and recognizes Councilwoman Kleckowski who asks to address questions to Geen Thazhampallath, Parking Director. Councilwoman Kleckowski asks about the appropriation. Mr. Thazhampallath states it is a transfer to Public Works. They have done testing and they have a claim on the walkway formerly where Cold Stone Creamery is and it is seeping from the walkway into their building into office space and causing damage. They are counting for rebuilding it for the future garage, and this \$18,000 transfer along with work done by Public Works will remediate the situation in short term. Councilwoman Kleckowski looked at it over the weekend and she couldn't tell what you were telling us and why is it coming out of parking. Mr. Thazhampallath responds you wouldn't see the damage standing on the walkway. It is from his budget when they made significant monies when they replaced the gate system. They did not ask for a service contract from that and some of that excess money was sitting there and the walkway is connected to the garage and Public Works did not have any money. He proposed to Finance to move the money from his budget to Public Works. The PO and contracting is being handled by Public Works. Councilwoman Kleckowski states her question was when you talked about the walkway and after more thought, she didn't understand how it was part of the parking garage and it is not a good habit to raid parking. Mr. Thazhampallath states this is not the use of the parking fund; this money is in the operational line and took the philosophy that if it was in another budget unless it is a special fund it is all city money. Councilwoman Kleckowski asks if the claim has been made. Mr. Thazhampallath yes; part of the claim is doing the remedial steps. Councilwoman Kleckowski asks if it is common to take money out of one department and pay for something in another department. Mr. Thazhampallath responds it is not commonly done but it is doing it this way or having Public Works come with an appropriation request. He could manage it. Councilman Serra asks what the liability is. Mr. Thazhampallath states this was our responsibility. One of the

tests they ran is boring into the concrete to see where the water is penetrating. The Fire Department also came and sprayed water and it is leaking into the building.

Councilman Faulkner asks to address questions to Eldon Bailey, Acting Director of Information Technology, regarding the Nutmeg Network. Mr. Bailey states he hopes it will save the City money they can do high speed with greater capacity through this network. Councilman Faulkner asks if there is a difference in our infrastructure today and when we go to this. Mr. Bailey responds slightly. We have fiber optic with Frontier communications and if we use the new network, it will replace one connection with another. Councilman Faulkner asks the grant will cover it. Mr. Bailey states it will cover connecting this building but there will be ongoing costs and those services are much cheaper than we are paying right now. Councilman Streeto asks if this is supplementing Frontier. Mr. Bailey replies it will replace the high speed internet and we have a contract through August and we can renew with them or someone else and if this is in place, we can contract with them. Councilman Faulkner asks does this cover the Board of Ed. Mr. Bailey states the Board and Russell Library are already connected and we would be joining them.

Councilman Bauer asks for the Fire Chief. Steve LaRosa, Deputy Fire Chief comes forward. Councilman Bauer asks about the transfers for the department and does this portend seeking additional money. Deputy Chief states you are catching me off guard because I did not think we had anything on the agenda. Chief LaRosa states they should be fine until the end of the year. He doesn't believe there will be an additional appropriation.

#### **Motion to Waive the Rules**

Councilman Serra moves to waive the rules relative to snow removal and asks the Public Works director to address this. Councilman Streeto seconds the motion. The Acting Chair calls for the vote and it is unanimous to approve. He calls Bill Russo, Public Works Director to the podium.

Councilman Serra states Finance and Government endorsed \$450,000 and it is now \$525,000. Mr. Russo explains the monies presented included one more storm which we had last night. Councilman Serra asks the Clerk to explain the process. She states the appropriation needs to be advertised five days before a meeting is called; at that point the Council may act on the request. The meeting can be scheduled for March 12. Councilman Serra states we can say yes to endorse the amount this evening to have the meeting on the 12th. Councilman Bauer states yes, it is something we can't get around and the reality of this winter season. Councilwoman Kasper states we need to have the special meeting and hope no more snow comes. Councilman Serra states he wants to have the procedure recognized. Councilman Streeto acknowledges the exceptional work the Public Work's department is doing for keeping the snow cleared. Job well done. Councilman Chisem asks if this is enough. Mr. Russo states Councilman Chisem helped us get salt. Councilman Chisem asks if this will be sufficient. Mr. Russo responds we have gotten into a pattern and the cost is due to the weekends and holidays. To make it safe, our guys have to be out there.

#### **3. Questions to Directors Closes.**

The Acting Chair, hearing no further questions to directors, closes questions to directors at 6:20 p.m.

#### **4. Meeting adjourned.**

Councilman Streeto moves to adjourn and is seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski. The Acting Chair calls for the vote and it is unanimous. He declares the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O. NORWOOD  
COMMON COUNCIL CLERK